

Ex. Doc. No. 74.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

STRENGTH OF THE ARMY AT THE CLOSE OF THE
MEXICAN WAR.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 26th ultimo, a report of the strength of the army of the United States, after the discharge, by the terms of their enlistment and the operation of existing laws, of such as are required to be discharged at the close of the war with Mexico.

JULY 28, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on 'Military' Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 8, 1848.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the adjutant general of the army, communicating "the strength of the different corps of the army of the United States after the discharge of those who, by the terms of their enlistment, and the operation of existing laws, are required to be discharged at the close of the war with Mexico;" and also "what will be the strength of the corps remaining in the army when filled to the maximum authorized by law."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Hon. R. C. WINTHROP,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Adjutant General's Office, Washington, July 6, 1848.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of June 26th, and in compliance with your instructions, I respectfully submit the following report relative to the strength of the different corps of the army after the discharge of the men enlisted for the period of the war with Mexico.

As far as can be ascertained from the records at this time, the number of five years' men in the different corps is as follows:

The two regiments of dragoons.....	1,096
The regiment of mounted riflemen.....	427
The four regiments of artillery.....	2,830
The eight regiments of infantry.....	3,794

8,147

Recruits in depot.....	719
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Strength of the army, (enlisted men,) dragoons, mounted riflemen, artillery, and infantry, and recruits, after dis- charging the soldiers enlisted for the war.....	8,866
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As many of the five years' men, serving in their regiments, will doubtless be discharged from the service on account of disability, it is proper to make a liberal deduction from the foregoing statement, and I think that about 7,500 may be assumed as the number of effective five years' men on the 30th of June. If the peace establishment (fifteen regiments) be computed on the basis of 64 privates to a company, it appears that about 4,383 men will be required to complete the establishment, being 11,883 men when full. But if the maximum organization, as now authorized by law, of 100 privates per company, be continued, the deficiency in the number of enlisted men would be increased to 10,242, the maximum strength upon this basis being 17,742.

Respectfully submitted:

R. JONES,
Adjutant General.

HON. W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.